THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to finalise the project for Soviet assistance due to the non-availability of requisite inputs and clearances.

(c) Question does not arise.

NHPC'S 800 KV Power Transmission Projects

597. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Natonal Hydro-electric Power Corporation has received World Bank aid for designing the first-ever 800 KV extra high voltage transmission system in Asia;

(b) whether NHPC has already shortlisted consultants for designing this most-advanced high-technology system without inviting Global tenders for selecting such Consultants;

(c) whether an alleged non-descript company called RSW of Canada, which reportedly has no back-up technical supporting assistace, has been included in the shortlist of Consultants in preference to several other much more experienced Canadian, British and U.S. consulting organisations in this field;

(d) whether NHPC has made any inquiries from international customers on RSW's past performance in high-voltage transmission projects; and

(e) if so, what are the names of the international customers so contacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No World Bank aid has been received by NHPC so far. However, the proposed 800 KV transmission system from Kishenpur (J&K) to Moga (Punjab) has been appraised by the World Bank for funding.

(b) and (c) The corporation has shortlisted six International Companies incuding M/s RSW of Canada for designing the transmission system in consultation with Central Electricity Authority and the World Bank.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

National Power Transmission Corporation,

598. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Power Transmission Corporation to design, erect and maintain transmission of bulk electric power:

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects which the proposed Corporation will be entrusted with;

(c) whether the proposed extra high voltage projects of 500 KV in Maharashtra and 800 KV of NHPC will also be designed and executed by this proposed Corporation; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for which States and NHPC are being permitted to import different types of technologies from different countries for power transmission when a National Power Transmission Corporation